BART Social

BART

July - August 1998 Vol. 18 No. 4

## BARTalk



#### GREAT AMERICA SEPTEMBER 20

A reminder to all BART's employees. The deadline is August 28 for ticket forms, for the employee picnic on Sunday, September 20 at Great America theme park in Santa Clara. If you have not received your form, please call Hershell Levi at ext. 6264.

# Crafts Galore at Holiday Faire

This year's holiday craft faire is set for Friday, December 4. BART employees planning to showcase their arts and crafts at the faire, should reserve their space now to show baked goods, holiday decor, clothing and other handicrafts this Holiday Season.

Call Vicki Wills in Public Affairs at 464-7115 or e-mail at vwills.

ZYears with BART: Congratulations to BART employees reaching 25 years of service with the District: (kneeling, front row, left to right) Alan Derman, Michael Ayala, Gaudioso (Pat) Patubo, Albert Jew, John Lanthier and Henry Cortez. Congratulations also to (standing, left to right) Mary Jarin, Eduardo Collaco, Evelyn Drew, Ronald Woo, Maria Griffin, John Semien, Michael Masek, Keith Frederick, Donna Klein, Raoul Banks, Thomas Harkness, Michael Gavan, Oscar Guandique, Norris Mason, Johnnie Hicks, Steve Robinson, Steve Brigham, David Haslett and Charles Tarski. bo

## **BART Police Officer Honored for Recovering Stolen Vehicles**

ART Police Officer Leslie
(Les) Morgan has
received his second
award for recovering stolen
vehicles and arresting auto
thieves. He has been recognized
by the California Highway
Patrol and California State
Automobile Association for
recovering 12 stolen cars in a 12month period in and around
BART station parking lots and
arresting three suspects.

Les received his second blue 10851 pin (noted for Vehicle Code Section 10851 for auto theft) for automobiles recovered

BART Police Officer Leslie (Les) Morgan (center) receives award from Bob Wade, California State Automobile Assoc. (left) and Calif. Highway Patrol Sergeant Jeff Lee.

and arrests logged as of November 1997. He received his first pin in 1994.

"We're very proud of Officer Les Morgan for his contribution to recovering these vehicles, and eliminating the perpetrators of this crime," said Commander Gary Gee. "BART patrons throughout the system can be assured that their cars are safe in our lots, thanks to the efforts of Les and others like him in the BART Police Department."

Car thefts are down by 22.4% in 1998 from a similar period last year, noted Gary. In the first six months of 1998, 221 automobiles were stolen compared to 285 in the first six months of 1997. A total of 517 vehicles were stolen in 1997. "Centralizing the police department and zone operations have contributed to this decrease in auto theft activity, along with increased public awareness," said Gary. "This is a significant decrease."



## 15th Annual Safety Tour Held for Visually Impaired

rom school age to senior citizen, some 50 visually impaired persons toured the 19th Street BART Station on May 6 to learn how to use BART. The System Safety and Transportation departments conducted the tour to help everyone become familiar with train operations and station features. "We took people through the entire station and along the platform, and especially focused on finding the gap between the platform and the car," said Reggie Lewis of System Safety. "We also took them through a BART car, covering everything from using the call box to contacting an operator. Then we took everyone down onto the trackway to learn about the electric third rail and the crawl space under the

platform."

Patrons on the tour often present ideas to improve BART service, said Reggie, such as announcing the train's destination in the station as it arrives on the platform. "We already announce each station over the speaker system inside the car, but for those who cannot see the overhead signs in the station, it makes sense to also make that announcement so those on the platform can know where the train is going."



Tours for the visually impaired are conducted by BART's System Safety and Transportation Departments. Pictured (left to right): Caroline Leong, Mark Chan, Dick Pasini, Reggie Lewis, Al Welchert, Karita Zimmerman and Jonathan Monfort. Not pictured: Ray Cole, Ed Snell, Lee Cohen, Norma del Mercado, Michael Flanigon, Gary Jensen, Zoyd Luce, Dale Wensler and Kathy Roth.

BART has been conducting these orientation tours for 15 years, noted Reggie, involving schools and agencies that work with the blind and visually impaired throughout the entire Bay Area. Among those taking part in this year's event were schools in Marin and Contra Costa counties; the state Department of Rehabilitation; the Living Skills Center for the Visually Impaired and the Orientation Center for the Blind in Oakland.







## GREAT IDEAS BY BART EMPLOYEES

ART employees help increase efficiency and save costs by presenting their ideas for improving BART to the Employee Suggestion Program. They are duly rewarded for their proposals. Here is a recent awardee and his idea:

Phillip Estrada Inspector, Rolling Stock & Shops:

Replacing a traction motor often involved extra work, if it needed to be installed after putting in a replacement axle. The motor wasn't checked for serviceability until after the new axle was installed, using a high voltage Megger to check the traction motor coil insulation. A low reading required replacing the traction motor and undoing almost everything already done to install the new axle. Inspector Phil Estrada suggested adding "Megger Traction Motor" to the list of sign-off items on the Transit Vehicle Axle Installation form to avoid repeated work and additional manhours. Checking the condition of the traction motor prior to installing the new axle was evaluated to save the District approximately \$8,900.00 over five years. Phil received an efficiency savings award of \$896.64.

## Let's Go Bowling



ART bowlers gathered July 18 for a mid-summer singles tournament at Albany Bowl to beat the heat and have a good time with friends. The tourney drew some new bowlers and several veterans, as did the June event held at Grand Lanes in Hayward.

Bowling league founder Andy Williams sprung into gear with Top Game (262) at the June singles tournament, returning him to the Top Five line-up with a 722 series. The men's Top Series went to Arthur Lewis (647), while the women's category saw Glenda Lewis take Top Game (285) and Beverly Ingram earn Top Series (610). Others in the Top Five behind Andy were Glenda (721), Arthur, Beverly and Johnnie Hicks (609). Also joining in the fun at the bowling alley were Belinda Rougeau, David Freeman, Suzanne Hicks and James Bonds.

It was a "Midsummer Night's Dream" for Belinda in July as she took Top Game at 218, joining Harry Straub with the men's Top Game at 247. Top Series went to Josephine Parento (607), a new member of the league, and David Freeman (627). Joining Harry in the Top Five were David, Josephine, Andy Williams (607) and Allison Browder (606). Another new bowler, Sylvia Young, was along for the tourney, along with James Bonds.

The next BART Bowling League singles tournament is scheduled for 3 p.m. on August 29 at Castro Valley Lanes. The fee is \$20 and includes three games and cash prizes. The bowling league is open to BART employees and their family members age 18 and over. The handicap systems keeps play fair and fun for all. For more information, call Andy Williams, ext. 5153, or Beverly Ingram, ext. 4133. See you at the bowling alley!

## **BART Police Seargent Chairs Political Action Council**

ART Police Sgt.
Nick Verhoek has made history for the BART Police
Department by becoming the first member of the force to chair the Peace Officers Political Action Council of Alameda County (POPAC). His term runs through 1998.

"Political action is an important fact of life," said Nick. "Many people don't realize the impact a group can have on deci-



BART Police Sgt. Nick Verhoek chairs the Peace Officers Political Action Council of Alameda County.

sions pertaining to public safety, labor and enacting new laws. It's very beneficial to interact with those who make decisions on behalf of their constituents. Being on a first-name basis with key elected officials gives you clout. I'm proud to do that on behalf of law enforcement throughout Alameda County."

Founded in 1981, POPAC represents 13 law enforcement agencies in Alameda County and provides a forum to monitor elected officials, candidates and public issues as they relate to law enforcement and public safety. "POPAC has established itself as a credible organization from which many political candidates seek support, including BART directors," noted Nick. POPAC endorses city council and county supervisor candidates, as well as those representing Alameda County in the state legislatures. The local group also works with the Police Officers Research Advisory Council on statewide issues affecting law enforcement.

"We have a pretty good track record in endorsements," said Nick, noting that four out of six candidates endorsed in the June primary election merged victorious. POPAC representatives also meet on a regular basis with local elected officials and testify on legislative matters in Sacramento.

Besides his role in POPAC, Nick is also involved in building a memorial to slain police officers and fire fighters in Alameda County.



**20** Years with BART: BART employees who recently achieved 20 years of service include (front row, kneeling, left to right): Bobby McDowall, Silvestre R. Silva, Leon Brooks, Atanacio Ceguerra, Victor Ono and David Aquilina, along with (back row, standing, left to right) Adren Perkins, Carlos DeLuz, Michael McLucas, Elwin Ennis, Robin Anderson, Walter Cruz, Vera Linnell, Charles Alexander, Linda Woodard-Adams, Charles Tyler, Randall Roderick, Adesegun Olanrewaju and Michael Heldt.

## **Five Years of Excellent Attendance**

Beyond the usual vacation, holiday and comp time, these employees have taken no other time off of their jobs for five years, including sick leave and disability leave. The District recently honored 31 BART employees for "Excellent Attendance."

Congratulations to the following BART employees for five years of Excellent Attendance.



Edward W. Brousseau



Benjamin Alingas



Stephen A. Baldi



Michael R. Biehn





Thomas E. Fowler



Mario A. Garcia



Betty Goodwin



Danny Hawkins



Judie Hirabayashi



Theodore James



William M. Kennedy



Catherine Lee



Richard Lohman



Danny K. Ma



René M. Maher



Marcia McBrayer



Shirley McNeal



Donald Moody



Vincent Nabong



Edward J. Pomposo, Jr.



Leon Sanders



Shirley A. Schmalfuss



A. (Sesh) Seshadri



Andrew B. Shaifer



Roy Sipp



Betty Soo Hoo



John H. Stamas



Arnulfo Taganap



Charles Vejdovsky



Roy H. Wadley



Richard J. Wieczorek

## Our Friends Remembered

BART has recently lost three dear friends, who are remembered with fondness by their former co-workers.



ROBERT JAMES "BOBBY" MCPARTLAND, 52, died on June 9 from complications arising from multiple sclerosis. The former budget coordinator in Purchasing Administration worked for the District for 15 years before leaving last January. He suffered two strokes before passing away. "He is sorely missed by everyone," said Cliff Lassila. "Bobby was a nice person, you never heard him say a bad word about anybody," recalls Chris Ortiz. "He always had a joke, he was always laughing" before he got the disease in the late 1980s, said Chris. He was also a former musician, and had a poster in his office of him playing guitar and singing. "Everyone always said, 'hi, Bobby,'" said Chris. "We were his home; he thought of us as his family, and we thought of him that way, too. It was sad to see him go." The funeral was held June 14 at the Chapel of the Chimes in Oakland. The family welcomes donations to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

BILL MISSMER passed away on June 11 from cancer. He worked more than 28 years in the Hayward Shops, and is remembered by Marcel Diner and Sue Angeli. Marcel, who was Bill's supervisor, said, "Bill will be remembered by his co-workers and friends for his quick wit, sense of humor and love of music. He will be greatly missed." Added Sue, "A friend is lost to us all. Bill passed away peacefully in his sleep. His wish was to be cremated, which his family attended to privately." Among thoughts left to his friends, said Sue, was to "go out and have a party, live life to its fullest."

**IIM THOMAS** passed away over the Memorial Day weekend from a lung ailment. He had worked for BART in the late 1970s as an electronic technician, then for Diablo Systems, and returned to BART in 1982 to work with the Train Control Computer Maintenance Group in Hayward. He had retired from District in January 1996. "He was a great guy and easy to get along with," said Elmo Giovannetti. "He really knew his electronics and was very efficient." Jim worked in the repair unit rebuilding major components used in BART cars. He was also chief steward and active in the First Covenant Church on Redwood Road in Oakland. Jim's friends in the computer group made a donation in Jim's name to the First Covenant Church Memorial Fund. He is buried at the Chapel of the Chimes Memorial Park in Hayward. 💆

### Give Blood... Save A Life

ART participated in a joint blood drive with ABAG and MTC on July 14, which drew 68 employees from all three agencies to donate blood to the Alameda-Contra Costa Blood Bank, including about 40 BART employees. "Participation at this drive was excellent," said Lois Tucker of MTC, her agency's blood drive organizer.

In fact, participation in blood drives has nearly doubled from this time last year, she noted. A blood drive held on July 15, 1997 drew 36 people, while a drive held in October 1997 recruited 41 people; 57 people showed up for drives held in January and April of this year. "The ultimate benefactors are those who receive blood and blood components," said Lois.

The July blood drive was organized after Lois received a special request from the Blood Bank, making this the fourth joint blood drive for 1998. "We were going to hold just three," said Lois, "but we were asked to do this one because, given the time of year, there's a higher chance of traffic injuries and other events where the demand for blood goes up."

Despite the good turnout, Lois cautions that the community need is constant. "The blood banks and hospitals are supposed to have a three-day supply at any given time to meet the needs of a disaster or emergency," notes Lois. "They usually only have a one or two-day supply. This means the community blood supply does not meet the potential demand."

The Alameda-Contra Costa Blood Bank makes whole blood and blood components available to benefit disaster victims, those requiring blood transfusions and those with blood disease.

The next joint blood drive is Tuesday, October 13, 1998 in the Metro Center Auditorium. The blood drive will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Said Lois, "Please watch for posters and flyers, and mark the date to come in and donate blood. It's essential for the community, and to save lives in a disaster."

Anyone with questions concerning the blood drive may call Lois Tucker, MTC at 464-7712, Dina Ferrari, BART, ext. 6226, or Marci Loss, ABAG at 464-7920. The agencies have held joint blood drives since 1984.



**15** Years with BART: BART employees who recently achieved 15 years with the District include (left to right): Aldo Del Col, Karen McDaniel, Darlene Saunders and Richard Pakulski.

## Scholarships Awarded by BBPA

or the third year, the BART Black Police Association (BBPA) is helping graduating high school seniors plan for their future by rewarding their achievement and potential for success. The Association recently presented \$1,000 scholarships to six young women and men from high schools located throughout the BART system.



BART Chief of Police Harold E. Taylor (left) was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from Oakland Police Chief Joseph Samuels.

"We're proud to present scholarships to these very talented and deserving young people," said William Gibson of the BBPA. The scholarship ceremony held June 5 at the MTC Auditorium also honored BART Chief of Police Harold E. Taylor with a Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented by Oakland Police Chief Joseph Samuels. BART Board Member Margaret K. Pryor provided the keynote address, while the invocation was presented by Rhonda Harris. BBPA President Glenn Huff and Officer Marc Brooks organized the event.

To receive a BBPA scholarship, graduating high school seniors must be admitted to a college or university, have a cumulative GPA of 3.0, and submit an essay, transcript and letters of recommendation. Funds for the scholarships were raised in part from a dance held in May. Students from high schools in Hayward, San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley received scholarships:



BBPA Scholarship winners (left to right): Grace Adesugba, Cody Skaggs, Verleana Green, Ibrahim Adesanya, Kenita Montgomery and Brendon McSmith.

#### Grace Adesugba

Tennyson High School, Hayward. Grace will major in Criminal Justice at California State University, Hayward, with a minor in Psychology

Born in Nigeria, Grace and her family came to the United States when she was one year old. Her teachers told Grace that "I was a natural born leader and had the potential to achieve all that I wanted," she says. Grace plans to earn a federal government internship by her junior year at CSU, Hayward and her goal is to work with the FBI. "I've always admired those who were in this line of business (law enforcement) because it is risky, adventurous, intriguing and very uncommon," says Grace. She also plans to establish tutoring programs and other programs for young adults. "I had several people who encouraged me when I needed it the most. It is very important to give back to the community and to the younger generation."

#### Cody Skaggs

Raoul Wallenberg High School, San Francisco. Cody will seek a career in Biological Engineering after studies at UC Berkeley.

"I have succeeded in all my goals so far, but the most important goal is just around the corner," says Cody, who wishes to complete his bachelors and masters degrees, and possibly a Ph.D. He has always been interested in "the natural world and magical ways in which the universe functions," he says, and will pursue his studies in biology. Besides college and career, Cody also wishes to "find someone to spend my life with and to share in all the important events. This factor is the most important to me and the goal I most want to accomplish."

#### Ibrahim Adesanya

Oakland High School, Oakland. Ibrahim will attend Howard University.

Ibrahim grew up in a Muslim family and considered his religious routines the norm, rising before dawn for prayers and fasting for Ramadan. As he grew up, he learned that others had false perceptions. But it wasn't until he went to France in the summer in 1997, that he confronted his own misperceptions. His Fulbright scholarship earned him the overseas trip, which began with three days' orientation in New York City. As Ibrahim awaited his first meeting with the other students, "I found myself victim to the same influences that had led other people to make false presumptions of me and my religion." He was met with "smiling faces and outstretched hands" and later found himself "caught off guard" because his new cohorts were in fact very interested in who he was. Ibrahim decided to "start all over again" with his approach to the others. "I learned to appreciate them and to disregard my false perceptions," he said. "They were able to know me for who I really was (and) we learned to respect our differences. This experience in short was a milestone which taught me that it pays to be myself." During that 1997 trip, Ibrahim

learned a valuable lesson that he said he will use throughout his life. "True intellect comes from information gathered with an open mind," he said.

#### Brendon McSmith,

Berkeley High School, Berkeley. Brendon will major in Engineering at UC Davis.

The son of a Peace Corps volunteer and a Gambian man, Alieu Mboge, Brendon McSmith grew up first in Woods Hole, Massachusetts around the scientific community of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Later he and his mother moved to Berkeley. As he grew older, he wondered more about his family in Africa. At age 13 he had a chance to finally travel to Gambia and meet his African family. "Meeting my family was one of the happiest, and hardest, experiences I ever had," recalls Brendon. He said it was strange meeting his father, with whom he came into conflict over an argument with Mboge's other son. "After wondering if he loved me and would one day save me from having no dad to boast about, and fish with and play basketball with, I realized that the answer was no, he did not love me, like me or want me and this broke my heart." Brendon did find acceptance and happiness with his Uncle Ousman and his family, and spent most of his remaining time with them. "I knew that I was loved and knew that I was a Gambian," he said. Later, upon returning home, Brendon noted, "I left Africa, but it hasn't left me. All the sights, the smells, the fear, the sadness and the love I came to know there is with me, and I know who I am." He still communicates with his uncle whose advice he treasures. Brendon also praises his mother, who "reinforces my strength... showing me that I'll always have a place in the world as long as I'm sure of that within myself."

#### Kenita Montgomery,

Oakland Technical High School, Oakland. Kenita is considering a career in political science after attending Yale University.

"Dysfunctional is an understatement to describe my family," says Kenita, who moved in with her grandparents after seven years with her AFDC mother. Her grandparents later suffered from serious illness, but Kenita says her "trials and tribulations" have made her stronger. She's remained in the top two percent of her class with a 3.85 GPA. Kenita is a team leader in Team Oakland and spends her Saturday mornings removing graffiti and fostering a community garden in her neighborhood. She also works with a referral service helping teen

mothers get a healthy start. "I see this all as just the beginning of my community service," she says. Kenita has also traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the World Affairs Council and says she has "an almost magnetic attraction to American Government." She sees a career in political science an option after studies at Yale University. "A sound education is priming for the unpredictable future," she states. "I want to investigate new interests and enjoy the adventure and convoluted turns that life will take."

#### Verleana Green

McClymonds High School, Oakland. Verleana will attend UC Berkeley as a political science major.

Despite difficult circumstances growing up, Verleana graduated from high school with a 3.6 GPA and will attend UC Berkeley this fall. Her story begins with sad memories of her parents fighting, her father addicted to crack cocaine and supporting his habit by taking all her mother's money. No food, no heat, no hope. Her mother kicked her father out of the house when Verleana was five years old. Verleana insisted on getting a job as soon as she was old enough to help her struggling family. "Having a job and going to school was very tiring," she recalls. Even though, "I still managed to get my school work done. This experience taught me a lot about responsibility." Then, after an eight-year absence, her father came back into her life, clean for two years and recently graduated from Heald Business College. "I embraced him with open arms," says Verleana, adding "This taught me how important education is, and, even though one wanders down the wrong path, it is never too late to turn around and travel down the right one." Her circumstances have made her strong, says Verleana. "I can handle any hardship that comes my way." Now, as she prepares to attend college, she says, "The image of listening to my parents argue is still powerful, but an even more powerful image has taken its place. I see myself holding a piece of paper in my hand stating I am a college graduate."

Note: Verleana was selected for the scholarship program after her story aired on KRON, Channel 4. BART Police Officer Pervanche McGee saw the story and contacted BBPA President Glenn Huff to include Verleana in the program. Members of the Association made personal contributions to the scholarship fund to make sure there were sufficient funds to include a sixth scholar in the program.

The BART Black Police Association was formed in 1994 to reach out to minorities within the BART community. The Association's goal is to help educate and economically assist the Black community through food and clothing donations, self-help seminars, scholarship awards and juvenile alternative programs. The Association is planning a charity basketball game and silent auction to help raise funds for its programs. Donations are welcome and may be sent to the BART Black Police Association at P.O. Box 30624, Oakland, CA. 94612.



Special thanks to the BBPA Scholarship Committee (left to right): Alonzo Ward, Travis Gibson, E.T. Parker, Marc Brooks, Glenn Huff and Keith Smith.

### **New Hires and Promotions**

ROBERTA COLLIER has been promoted to Assistant Treasurer. She oversees Treasury Analysis and Cash Handling, with responsibility for investing the District's surplus cash, collecting and depositing cash from ticket sales and issuing bonded debt. She replaces Scott Schroeder, who was promoted to Controller/ Treasurer. Roberta had been acting Assistant Treasurer for the previous five months, and was the District's Assistant Controller for six years. Prior to joining BART in October 1990, Roberta worked in the Department of Finance for the City of Berkeley for 23 years.

TIMOTHY MOORE has joined the Marketing Department as a Marketing Services Analyst, with responsibility for on-line marketing, including managing the District's Website; and developing marketing programs for youth and corporate customers. He is currently working on the Phase I redesign for BART's Website "to make it more user-friendly and accom-

modate site growth," says Tim. He will also develop programs targeting college students and major employers, in particular companies located in the Tri Valley area.



### **New Hire Orientation**

elcome to new employees! If you're new to BART, you may wish to attend the New Hire Orientation to learn more about BART's culture and history, as well as District policies and programs. The next New Hire Orientation is scheduled for:

September 22 and 23 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oakland Training Center 25 Fourth Street in Oakland

Topics covered during the two-day orientation include BART history and values; general rules; discrimination policy; system safety, including emergency and earthquake preparedness, back safety, working with computers, workplace violence and BART's needlestick program; substance abuse and employee counseling; worker's compensation; benefits and incentive awards; customer service; the Extensions Program; a tour of Central Operations at Lake Merritt Station, and a Union presentation.

Supervisors may register employees by E-Mail or by contacting Yolanda Vega, Training and Development via fax (464-6386) with the following information: employee name, department and cost center, job classification or title; supervisor's name, location and telephone number. All employees should bring their OR&P manual on the first day of class. Employees may also wish to bring their lunch.

For more information, please call 464-6293.



#### For Sale! 1974 Toyota Land Cruiser

with full soft top and Chevy 350 V-8 built for rock climbing. Also has bikini top and half doors for summer fun! Asking \$5,900.

Call Les at 925/946-0920 eve.

#### Motorcycle Mania!

Three bikes for sale, all in excellent condition with very low mileage.

Honda Rebel 250, red, 2 cyl., 250cc, sm., scale "Harley" with lots of chrome. Low seat height ideal for lady or new rider.

Yamaha TW 200, black, 1 cyl., 200cc, dual sport. Freeway legal but big back knobby tire for mud, sand, and dirt. Goes anywhere.

Yamaha Seca II, red, 4cyl., 600cc, standard street bike. 110 mph with comfortable riding position. Call Bill at ext. 6167 or 925/283-5967.

#### Great Buy! 1988 Toyota Supra

Loaded! Leather, T-top, AT, AC, PS, PW, PL and tilt. \$5,800. Call Michael at 510/835-4534.

#### Cabin for Rent in Twain Harte Area.

Two blocks to private beach & horse area (paddle & row boats, slide off dock). Nearby lakes for boating, fishing and river rafting. Historic parks & caves nearby. Snow ski in winter. Fully equipped, sleeps 8. \$150/weekend, \$50/weekday, \$300/week.

Call Sue at ext. 2518 or 828-4636.

Time to clean out those drawers, closets and garages! BARTalk's Trash and Treasures column offers you an opportunity to pick up some extra cash for those unwanted items you no longer need. Send your ads – no telephone calls – to Trash & Treasures, BARTalk, LMA-1, E-mail to vwills, or Fax to 464-7118.

## **BARTalk**

800 Madison Street Oakland, CA 94607

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